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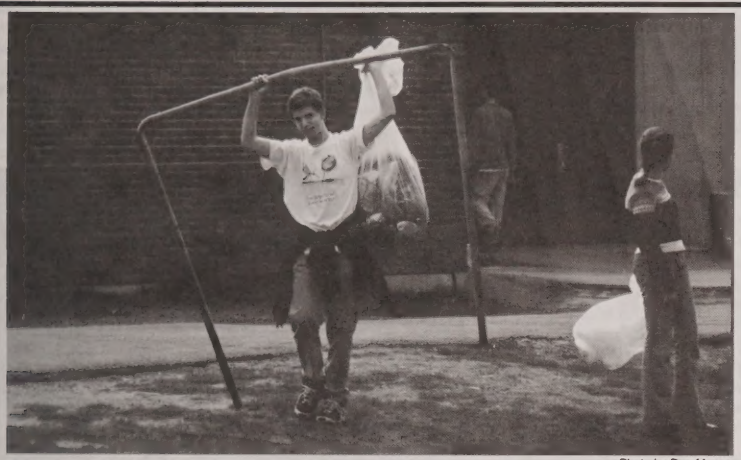

Photo by Dan Myung

CLEANING UP HIS ACT - Hefting a trash bag and pipes, freshman Steve Estes shows off his trash picking muscles to the ladies on Clean Rubbish Up Day day.

Young seeking Newton superintendent position

By Kurt Kastorf

On Monday April 13, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Jeffrey Young announced that he will interview for a similar position in Newton. This planned move comes after six years of widely-admired work in Lexington. He faces competition from two other finalists: Dr. Eric Eversley from Illinois and Dr. David Quattrone from Ohio.

Young was announced as a finalist for the superintendent's position by the Newton school committee on April 9th. The position interests Young largely because he lives in Newton and has children in the schools. According to Young, "I have resided in Newton for twenty-five years and have a daughter in the third grade and a son in the first grade in the public schools. I am interested in the possibility of serving my home community."

The position also interests Young because he is looking for a new challenge. According to Young, "I see a professional challenge in working in a school system that is roughly twice the size of Lexington. There are approximately 11,000 students in twenty-one schools in Newton, and I am interested in discovering whether I can apply the knowledge I have gained in Lexington to a larger, more diverse environment." Dr. Young sees his reasons for applying for the Newton position as similar to those that caused him to apply for the Lexington position.

"I am interested in discovering whether I can apply the knowledge I have gained in Lexington to [the] larger, more diverse environment [of Newton]."

-Superintendent of Schools Dr. Jeffrey Young

Dr. Young has grown well respected during his six-year stay in Lexington. He gained support of pro-education citizens quickly as he pushed for sustained school suspending and fought budget cuts. At the same time, Young has appealed to Lexington citizens opposed to school waste. Early on in his stay at Lexington, he was praised by members of Lex-Act for his frank and straight forward approach and for his honesty. Many faculty members and citizens felt that Young was a welcome change from former Superintendent Geiger, who offended residents by calling the school system "elitist" and "self-satisfied." Dr. Young continues to earn high praise. He is also among the Commonwealth's most highly paid town officials.

The Newton system has earned praise from Young. "Lexington is regarded as one of the premier school systems in Massachusetts. When I was offered the position here in 1992, I was thrilled to accept it and come to work in such a stimulating and challenging environment." Although he does not feel he has an in-depth knowledge of the Newton schools, Dr. Young thinks they may be facing some of the same challenges as Lexington. "I am still in the process of learning about the intricacies of the school system. Clearly, all school systems in Massachusetts are wrestling with incorporating state mandates into local programs, so I expect some of the issues there would be the same as the ones we currently face in Lexington." Young has felt uncomfortable researching information regarding Newton's schools while still holding his position in Lexington.

Young says he enjoys his current job, and Newton is the only town he would consider taking a position in. He speaks highy of Lexington, calling it "...a remarkable community — the citizens hold very high expectations for the schools and thanks to the efforts of the faculty and staff we have been able to meet those expectations to a great extent, even with the budget constraints...The faculty and staff are extraordinary in their talent and commitment to their students."

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Clean Rubbish Up Day beautifies LHS

By Amie Shei and Rasheed Townes

The LHS Student-Faculty Senate recently sponsored Clean Rubbish Up Day (CRUD) as part of the school's own contribution to Earth Day. This event, originally scheduled for April 9, was postponed to Thursday, April 16 due to inclement weather. This year, the Senate moved to make this event a mandatory school-wide event, a change from CRUD's original strictly voluntary basis. The Thursday schedule was rearranged so X-block would fall at the end of the day, and the last two blocks were then devoted to CRUD activities.

Students, organized by G-block classes, donned latex gloves and hefted large garbage bags. They cleaned up the infamous "corner" on Muzzey Street, both sides of Worthen Road from the high school down to Hayden, and several other areas littered with garbage. Filled trash bags were deposited at drop-off areas manned by senators.

Among the treasures found by students were empty beer bottles, cigarette filters, and bits of plastic. Seniors Katherine Rose and Sheaumei Tsai proudly exclaimed, "We even found a toilet! Yes, a toilet!" Fellow senior Carl Tortola expressed his frustration: "I kept getting rocks and branches confused for trash!"

Both teachers and students responded positively to the experience, for the most part. Spanish teacher Susan Woodward reflected, "This day was a great idea, and it seemed that everyone had fun."

Senior class president Rasheed Townes also responded favorably to the experience: "It was great how Senate got everyone involved in this project that benefits all in the community. It encourages a sense of school unity. Also, it adds to the nice blend of school-sponsored events such as music and drama performances and social events like the upcoming proms and dances."

However, some students were not thrilled with the day. Senior Jason Leekeenan complained, "I think that it's ridiculous that people have to have an entire event to clean up rubbish that people should take care of themselves to begin with."

Students were rewarded for their hard work with ice cream, generously donated from Lexington Creamery, formerly Steve's Ice Cream. Those students free during G-block served as ice cream "scoopers," giving out ice cream to their hard working peers. Track team members looked on wistfully, depriving themselves of the premium ice cream because of a crucial meet later that afternoon. Senior Leela Ramnath taunted a few runners with her ice cream: "You can't eat ice cream because track is a real sport. Ha ha!"

In the end, the LHS community ended up with cleaner surroundings and a great sense of accomplishment. Perhaps this hard work will inspire all not to litter and to help keep our environment clean.

Spring Fling fails to generate revenue for sophomore class

By Ashwini Nadkarni

The Spring Fling, a school dance held on Saturday, April 3rd, by the Sophomore Class Council, attracted only ninety people to participate in its "Human Sumo Wrestling" and "Foozball" activities. The low attendance resulted in a monetary loss of $800. Over $1000 had been used to purchase the equipment for the featured activities. Of the ninety people who did attend, forty were members of either the Sophomore Class Council or the seven high school bands who performed that night.

The low turn-out was due to the unsuccessful advertising campaign of the Sophomore Class Council. Most students were unaware of the Spring Fling. Sophomore Class Council President Alex Sherman attributes the low attendance to the tardiness of advertising. "Announcements were made on the loudspeaker and notices were posted on Cable Vision. The issue wasn't that we didn't advertise enough but that we advertised too late," he said.

Despite the extent of loss, sophomore officers believe that they can redeem themselves. Treasurer Kristin Lager stated, "Our class is motivated and will be able to compensate for whatever we lost. Besides, I think that the losses were worth it! Eight hundred dollars or not, a good time was had by all!" Sherman also agrees with this

SPRING *continued on page 6*

Photo by Caroline Loomis

FILL IN THE BLANK - Sophomore Kate Bonner-Jackson waves her report card in the air and pleads with the standardized testing gods.

Orchestra to be split in two

By Joo-Hee Chung

To accommodate rapidly growing interest and participation in music education, Lexington High School's Music department has decided to split the existing orchestra into two distinct ensembles based on ability. Next year, the high school will have two orchestras: the Repertory and the Honors Orchestra. Previously, any student string musician could participate in the orchestra. Since late March, students have been auditioning for admittance to the 1998-99 Honors Orchestra.

The music department decided that dividing by skill level, and not age, would be most beneficial for students in terms of improving their musicianship. Members of the Honors Orchestra will receive honors credit and must meet higher expectations.

"Many view this change as a better environment to pursue their interests," according to one of the more serious musicians of the current orchestra. String Specialist and LHS orchestra conductor Janet Haas added, "[Orchestra is] just like any other academic class. There are leveled math and English classes, so why shouldn't there be an Honors Orchestra in order to accommodate a more diverse range of students?"

The total estimated number of students who will be participating in next year's high school string music program is 84. As of May 1, 55 students have auditioned and 45 are officially part of next year's Honors Orchestra. The opportunity for participation in the Honors Orchestra was also open to incoming freshmen. The auditions began March 31 and ended in early May.

For those who are concerned about the difference in the quality of playing between the two orchestras, Mrs. Haas comments that, "The overall quality of the ensemble does not solely depend on the talent of the individual members, but rather depends on how well the members play together." In this respect, the two orchestras will be equal.

MCAS testing proves easy for some, frustrating for others

By Allen Riddell

Since May 7, all sophomores, eighth and fourth graders in Massachusetts have been taking the MCAS, Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System, test. Since in many cases sophomores at LHS do not take classes which would prepare them for all of the subject matter that the test questions cover, the state predicts that students at Lexington will fare poorly. Despite this, sophomores still greatly differ in their opinions of the test's difficulty.

Lexington's curriculum simply does not match up to the state's curriculum guidelines — known officially as curriculum frameworks — that the MCAS tests are designed around. Most other schools are in the same situation, which makes state authorities pessimistic about the test results.

Dr. Diane Tabor, Director of Curriculum and Instruction at Lexington, explained, "The reason it is predicted that people will not do very well is that there hasn't really been time for communities to align their curriculum with the state one, so what is going to happen is that kids . . .will end up being tested in some in some areas they haven't studied, and not tested in areas where they've studied quite a bit."

Unfortunately, this means that certain subjects are emphasized at the expense of others. Sophomore Lee Friedlich remarked, "I hate [the MCAS tests] so much because most of the stuff [being tested] is the same thing over and over again. It's completely irrelevant."

The standardization of curriculum is part of the 1993 Education Reform Act. Some states, notably California and New York, have had success with a standardized state curriculum and testing. While the success of schools like Lexington demonstrate that academic excellence can be achieved on a local level, the state believes that many schools will benefit from standardized curriculum frameworks, which will hopefully create higher quality education.

"The reason it is predicted that people will not do very well is that there hasn't really been time for communities to align their curriculum with the state one[.]"

-Director of Curriculum Dr. Diane Tabor

Independent of assessment, the MCAS tests represent a new philosophy in testing. Standardized tests traditionally consist of multiple choice tests that use a percent system to rank scores. MCAS tests use "open-ended questions" to assess how well students incorporate problem solving and reasoning skills into their answers. Scores are compared to a standard of excellence, not to the scores of other students.

This new approach focuses attention on those who score below the standard for proficient levels and aims to bring as many students as possible up to the state's standard of high proficiency. This can also make the MCAS test much more difficult for some students, as sophomore David Fulmer commented: "The English [section] was hard because it was all essays…but the math was simple."

The scores on MCAS tests will highlight Lexington's strengths and weaknesses. Lexington will continue to test students in grade 3 with the Iowa Test of Basic Skills and in later grades with other standardized tests. The results of the MCAS tests will add to the information Lexington collects about students.

Photo by Dan Myung

NO BUTTS ABOUT IT- This pile of cigarette butts was collected in five minutes from under a Science Building staircase on CRUD.

Ad hoc committee to review LHS substance abuse policy

By Mandar Muzumdar

Discussions over the implementation of the extracurricular substance policy that excludes students using drugs and alcohol anywhere in the community from any school-related activities are ongoing as a short-term working committee was created to make recommendations and address issues concerning the policy.

On April 9, the School Council formed a six-member committee, consisting of three members from the School Council and three members from the Senate, to discuss various considerations concerning the extracurricular substance policy. The committee believes that substance use off-campus has a direct effect in reducing the ability of students in their academic classes and extracurricular activities. As a result, they have decided to encourage students to make healthy choices. Among the considerations for implementing the substance policy are creating a partnership with parents because it is believed that parents have greater influence over their child's activities in the community and mirroring the substance policy for the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association. The committee is working on methods of supporting students and promoting activities as health choices. The committee believes that intervention is important because of the dangers of substance use to the students and their activities.

There will be a School Council Meeting on May 18 at which the committee will submit recommendations on the extracurricular substance policy to the School Council. Mr. Lanoue, who will facilitate the meeting, believes that one meeting is all that will be necessary to finalize the policy and amend the school handbook accordingly.

ATTENTION
graduating seniors:

If you did not fill out a form indicating your post-graduation plans during physics on Wednesday, May 13, please fill out this form and return it to the main office by May 18.

Name (as you want it printed)

_____

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College or Plans

_____

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Phone #_____

News Briefs

LEXINGTON STUDENTS EXCEL AT ASHDOWN CHEMISTRY COMPETITION

Juniors Greg Ingolia, Ken Weinstein, Mandar Muzumdar, Katherine Fisher, and Karoun Demirjian were selected to represent Lexington at the statewide Ashdown Chemistry Examination on April 4, 1998. The test consisted of one hundred multiple-choice questions on a variety of chemistry topics. Ingolia won a first place award, and Weinstein, Muzumdar, and Fisher each received an honorable mention for first-year students. Ingolia and Weinstein were two of only twenty Massachusetts students who qualified to take the National Chemistry Olympiad Examination on April 25, 1998. This test combined a written multiple-choice section and a laboratory section. The results from the national competition have not yet been announced.

LHS TAKES TOP PLACES AT STATE HISTORY DAY

LHS students took four of the top spots at the State History Day competition, held at Brockton High School on April 4, 1998. In the senior historical paper category, junior Becky Dedrick placed first and Ken Weinstein placed second. In the senior performance category, senior Naomi Goodman placed first and junior Elizabeth Shapiro placed second. In the senior group project category, juniors Eleanor Finnegan and Ami Karkar placed in the top ten. Dedrick, Weinstein, Goodman, and Shapiro will represent Massachusetts at the National History Day competition, to be held in June at the University of Maryland.

SENIOR NAMED PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR FINALIST

Congratulations to senior Jeremy Silber, who was named a finalist in the Presidential Scholar competition. Presidential Scholars are chosen from a nationwide student pool after a rigorous application process.

LHS Science Olympiad team threepeats at states

By Allen Riddell

It hurled forward. Traversing the distance in a mere 5.1 seconds, it came to a controlled stop 21 centimeters away from the wall. Juniors Kai-Jae Wang and Abby Krich, the architects of this sophisticated moving craft smiled confidently. Not quite as dreary as drag racing, the "Scrambler" is one of the events the LHS Science Olympiad team competes in. Scores are based on how quickly an egg can be propelled towards a wall and how close to the wall the egg stops, without breaking. The event requires construction of a complex device to carry an egg a given distance. Wang and Krich were the builders of the device, which brought the team a first place medal in the Scrambler event at the recent state competition in Framingham. This gold medal, plus medals in nine other events, propelled Lexington to victory at the February competition, making the LHS Science Olympiad team state champions for the third consecutive year.

Lexington, taking first place overall in the state and regional competition, received medals in 10 out of 18 events. Seniors John D'Amore and Ram Gowda won first place in the Chemistry Clue event. Gowda received a gold medal with senior Jeremy Silber in the experimental design event. The duo of Silber and Gowda also placed second in the Water Quality event. Juniors Mandar Muzumdar and Steve Davis took second place in Redesigner Genes. Muzumdar also place second with sophomore Angela Lo in the Cell Biology event and placed third in the Bio Process event with Rudi Faust. In the Earth, Sea, and Sky event, sophomores Faust and Yuen-Jong Liu placed second.

Changed by the experience, Liu said, "I've learned so much from my involvement with the Science Olympiad Team. It gives me experience applying what I've learned in school to real problems. It's fantastic."

Seniors Saro Getzoyan and Jason LeeKeenan took third place in the Physics Lab event. Additionally, LeeKeenan and senior Sheaumei Tsai medaled in the Write It/Do It competition, an event based on how well people communicate with each other. LeeKeenan and Tsai won the silver medal, losing only to a pair of twins from Wellesley.

The LHS team defeated the Cambridge Rindge and Latin school to win the state competition, ensuring that it will compete in the National Science Olympiad, to be held in Michigan this May. It will be attended by the best teams from across the country. Last year, Lexington placed tenth at the national competition in North Carolina.

WHAT GOES UP. . . - The LHS Science Team is reaching new heights with the help of senior Rafael Bras who is practicing for a new event, "How High Can You Get?"

Budding artists receive recognition

By Nathaniel Prottas

A walk down the hall of the main building of LHS is a rewarding experience for those who stop to appreciate the displayed artwork. Besides the colorful posters and declarations of student existence that festoon the walls, the hall features a glass display case containing excellent drawings, paintings, sculptures, and photos. No wonder then, that the Art Department recently selected sixteen exceptional students to enter the Globe Scholastic Art Awards Competition.

The competition, nationally sponsored by the publishers of Scholastic magazine, honors high school artists and awards scholarships. The sixteen students were selected by the faculty, who "chose work that was high quality" and noteworthy, according to art teacher Mrs. Gloria Fox. Three levels of awards are given: the golden key, the silver key and an honorable mention. This year Hsiu-Chun Jessie Chen was awarded a Golden Key for her mixed media painting entitled "Leaf Trio." Her work will be exhibited with other winners and will go onto national competition in Washington D.C. The five honorable mentions were awarded to Lexington students, among them freshman Emily Loomis who, according to student teacher Ms. Angela Bourne, has "continuously set the standard for excellence in her class." Other honorable mention recipients included senior Theresa Green for her portrait, freshman Yasuko Yamamoto for her pencil drawing, and senior Carolyn Bloomberg and sophomore Alex Pollen for photography.

"[W]hether or not you win, it's an honor just to be chosen to submit [your work in the Globe Scholastic Art Awards competition]."

-Art teacher Gloria Fox

This year's competition was extremely competitive. The difficulty in succeeding was a result of the restriction of the number of entries allowed per school coupled with new judging guidelines. According to Mrs. Fox, "whether or not you win, it's an honor just to be chosen to submit [your work]." Likewise, Ms. Bourne states that the competition isn't just about the awards. It is a wonderful opportunity for "students just to see what other schools are doing, and to get ideas."

Students' works were submitted to the competition just before winter break and judged in January. All of the art from the competition was on display at the Transportation Building in Boston during February. There were seven categories that students could submit art to: photography, computer graphics, mixed media, drawing, graphic design, sculpture and high school portfolio. Two students, seniors Somayeh Kashi and Natasha Bonugli, entered the portfolio competition, which requires students to enter five works and is judged differently than the other categories.

The sixteen Lexington entries included pieces by Ji Won Kim, Emily Loomis, Yasuko Yamamoto, Hsiu-Chun Jessie Chen, Allison Cole, Dane Stadus, Kyung Hae Ju, Peter Gill, Amelia Massucco, Carolyn Bloomberg, Liz Kulin, Alex Pollen, Somayeh Kashi, Theresa Green, Kathy Yang and Christine Germaine.

The Globe competition is not the only important event to take place in the arts department recently. Several of those who entered the competition were also invited to participate in a weekend workshop with internationally known artist and educator Tim Rollins. Rollins is famous for his work with inner city youths and for his group art work. Natasha Bonugli, Somayeh Kashi and Peter Gill all helped to create a group work based on the myth of Prometheus, a Greek god. Presently the piece that the group created with Mr. Rollins is on display at the Barbara Krakow Gallery on Newbury Street. A group at the Museum of Fine Arts has also expressed interest in purchasing the piece to be displayed at the Museum. Senior artwork is also presently on display at Cary Library.

Photo by Caroline Loomis

GOLDEN FLEECE - Freshman Emily Loomis' drawing, "Big Horned [sic] Sheep" received an honorable mention in the Globe Scholastic Art AwardsCompetition.

Kindred collects accolades

By Claudia Stumpf

Most of us don't think about vampires when we consider high school drama productions. Most of us don't think about vampires at all. Most of us are conventional high school students. The cast and crew of *Kindred* are not. *Kindred*, an original work written entirely by the cast, is a coming-of-age story about a high school girl, Frankie (played by junior Jenny Stulck), being raised by a single father. In her search for a social niche she meets a cult of students involved in the dark side of life. The members of the cult and Frankie connect socially through self-destructive behavior. Frankie's involvement with the cult coincides with her search for her mother, who is in an insane asylum.

The play culminates in Frankie's meeting her mother, who turns out to be a vampire. The ending, which went through many alterations, is intentionally ambiguous and leaves the audience with a feeling of unfulfillment. Throughout the play the ensemble of darkly-clad Goths help with transitions and play the role of Frankie's subconscious, leading her toward her mother.

Though admired greatly by audience members, the piece has met with some resistance due to its controversial themes. Such resistance was expressed in the form of complaints sent to the Drama Guild questioning the appropriateness of the show. The cast, along with drama teacher Steve Bogart and Guild members, has sent letters of response.

Kindred's rise through drama competitions began at the Preliminary Competition of the Massachusetts Drama Festival, an event sponsored by the Massachusetts High School Drama Guild. Present at the festival were numerous schools from around the state. Three shows were chosen at each site to continue to the semifinals. *Kindred* not only advanced, but three of the actors (Stulck, senior Oliver Sellers-Garcia, and senior Melanie Figueiredo) won individual awards. At the semifinals, there were five sites throughout the state. Again, three shows were chosen from each site and again, *Kindred* advanced. Also, Stulck and Sellers-Garcia won additional awards, as did the ensemble of Goths. The Finals were held in Boston. Fifteen shows from around the state were performed at the festival, which lasted three days. The cast not only won first place for the first time in Lexington history, but also received an award for the creation and execution of their original script. Next up for the cast of *Kindred* was the New England festival, which was held in Connecticut from April 16 to April 18. At this level the festival was non-competitive.

The cast [of *Kindred*] not only won first place [at the Massachusetts Drama Festival] for the first time in Lexington history, but also received an award for the creation and execution of their original script.

State should rethink purpose and administration of Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System

The 1993 Education Reform Law mandated the creation of a new statewide testing program to evaluate the level of student achievement under the state's new learning standards and curriculum frameworks. This has resulted in the testing trial of the MCAS, or the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System, to be administered to fourth, eighth and tenth grade students this May. Although initially the test will start with English language arts, mathematics, and science and technology subjects, next year a history and social science test will be added, with foreign language tests in the works. Eventually, the design is that by 2001, those tenth graders that do not pass the test will not graduate in 2003.

Although many details have not been worked out, the purpose of the standardized testing was to ensure that all students in the state learn what legislators and educators have determined to be necessary knowledge for graduation under the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. However, it seems as if the tests are tedious and inefficient as set up for the 1998 year. For sophomores, for example, the tests will be administered in 45 minute sessions, with the math and science and technology sessions lasting four sessions each and English language arts lasting seven sessions.

This results in over eleven hours of standardized testing for students who already will have to go through countless other hours of similar bubble-filling for tests which are requirements for college entrance. This time is also taken directly out of classroom time during May, which is when students are preparing for the SAT IIs, finals and AP Examinations.

Also, the specificity of the tests might act to constrain curriculum for teachers who already feel that they need to finish certain material by the end of the year in order to prepare their students for the AP Exams or the SAT IIs. Instead of trying interesting, innovative teaching mechanisms, teachers might feel the need to stick with the program and teach the syllabus of what Silber and the State Education Board feel a tenth-grade student should know.

Budgetary constraints are a constant problem for many school systems, and coupled with the 990 hour standard for classroom involvement, towns might be forced to focus curriculum on courses designed to meet this new "pass or die" testing mechanism for tenth-graders instead of creating more effective and creative learning opportunities for the students.

Students should be given several opportunities to pass these examinations: multiple factors can contribute to a poor showing on any given standardized examination, and it is ridiculous that one examination could judge a student and determine whether or not he or she should graduate high school.

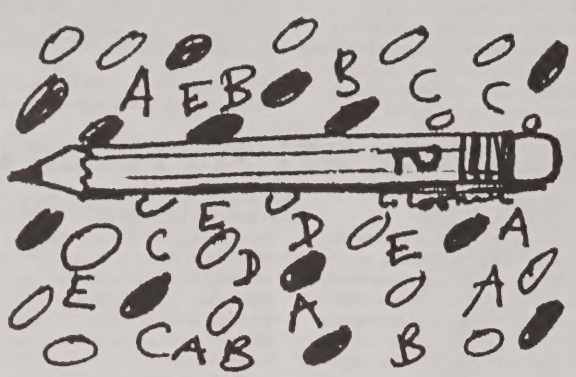

Illustration by Caroline Loomis

There are other possible examination tactics that could be implemented, to avoid eleven hours of testing during a three week period. For example, a system such as the New York State Regents examinations, which are specific to level and subject and are administered at the end of the year to determine if a student has mastered the curriculum, could be administered at the end of each year for each subject. Suppose there are specific questions relating to physics or chemistry on the science and technology portion of the examination. Most sophomores at Lexington High School take these subjects during their junior and senior years, and should not be required to know information that has not been in their curriculum.

Instead, there could be several tests available at the end of each year of schooling, such as biology, computer science, chemistry, physics and earth science for the science and technology portion, and students should take appropriate examinations after they have completed certain courses. There could be a minimum score on each examination that a student is required to achieve in order to graduate. This avoids an intrusive eleven-hour, three week marathon of testing during the sophomore year and instead divides the examinations up into multiple sessions over their high school education.

Such separate examinations at the end of each year also eliminates the constraints of having to cover all of the material necessary for the MCAS during the first two years of high school. A shorter English examination at the end of ninth grade can indicate which students perhaps need additional help in that subject and allow teachers to help those particular students, avoiding the possibility of a student failing the MCAS once during their sophomore year and thus jeopardizing their ability to graduate high school with the rest of their class. Or, the state could eliminate testing for many students by integrating AP or SAT examinations into the standardized testing evaluations. For example, a student that scores well on either an AP or an SAT II subject test generally has a depth of knowledge in that particular area. This perhaps eliminates the need for the state to administer a separate examination on that subject.

There are many details that have yet to be worked out by the State concerning these tests. Perhaps those legislators will spare students from more testing anxiety than they already have by either spreading the testing out over the entirety of their high school career, or eliminating testing for those students that demonstrate proficiency in other ways.

- Eun Young Choi

Administration and students need joint reform of parking

We all know Lexington High School has a parking problem. Like many of the problems at LHS, the parking problem is caused by ambiguity. The administration is not communicating and enforcing its parking lot policy. Students, and probably teachers, just don't know what's going on in the parking lots.

The problems associated with parking are all direct results of a lack of space. To shrink the on-campus-parking population at LHS, the administration has long allowed only seniors to obtain parking permits for the student parking lot. Juniors are allowed to buy any surplus permits. The rule is simple; if you do not have sticker-permit and are parked in the student lot, you will get ticketed. This rule is made very clear. However, its enforcement is not. No one really knows if the administration actually follows the policy. Many times I have pulled in or out of a spot only to see a junior casually strutting to the permitless car he has parked next to mine. These perpetrator juniors are rarely ticketed.

The administration will not eliminate the ambiguity by telling us on what day it will ticket. It should ticket every day. The administration needs to make clear, by means of punishment, that the student lot is only for permit-holders.

The administration should also hold teachers to the penalty of a fine. Many mornings, I enter the school through Muzzey Street and thus see the teacher lot. The spots behind D-House formerly reserved for students are rarely occupied. However, when I reach the student lot, much of the first row of student spots is occupied by cars clearly marked with the blue faculty/staff permit-stickers. The administration should inform teachers who park in student spots that there are plenty of spots waiting for them in the teacher lot.

The D-House spots have caused another problem recently. This year, when they were removed from student access, the "S," indicating "student spot," was painted over on each spot. The elements, however, have revealed the "S," causing many students to believe that they had been returned the right to park in those spots. The administration never addressed this very obvious problem. Instead, it decided to give tickets for one of the first times this year. Why, of all the times and places it could penalize illegal parking, has the administration decided to ticket these spots, where there was an obvious potential for a misunderstanding?

The administration has to inform us, teachers and students, of where we can park. It must also inform us, by demonstration, what will happen to violators of the parking policies. Maybe teachers are allowed to park in student spots. If students were told that this was the case, some hard feelings might be alleviated.

I do not want to lay all the blame of the ambiguity on the administration. It's time for students to tell the administration why many cars with student stickers are often parked in teacher spots. I may be a coward, but I am afraid to park in certain spots of the student lot. The two rows closest to Worthen Road are often littered with broken glass and the students who break it. Cars who park in this "territory" get damaged, often "keyed." I, personally, do not want to see my father's car with a long scratch along the doors. Nor do I want to leave my car surrounded by the students who did it and will do it again. To a certain extent, many students are harassed for parking in these last two rows. I would park in the teacher lot if there were no other spots in student lot other than ones in the last two rows. My property's well being and my level of safety should not be compromised. Were I to receive a ticket for parking in a teacher spot in this instance, it would be inappropriate that I was penalized for protecting myself.

Hopefully, next year the administration, or maybe Senate, will begin a dialogue among faculty, student drivers, and the administration. In order to avoid discomfort and parking tickets, we all need to know what's going on.

- Oliver Sellers-Garcia

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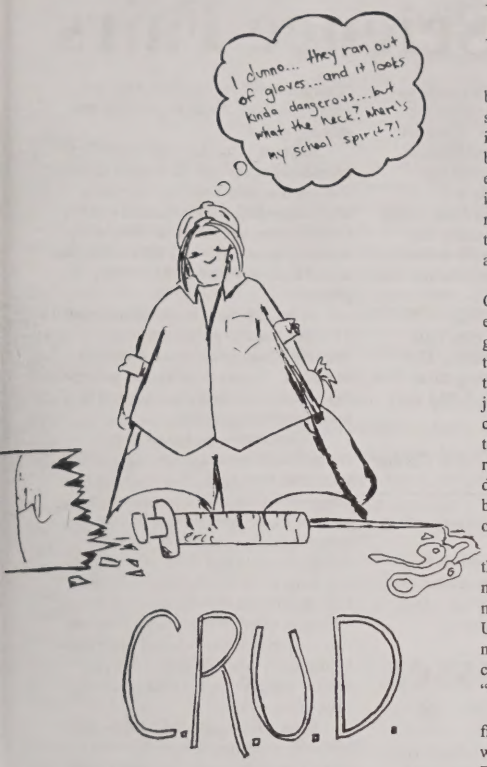
From social responsibility to CRUD



Cartoon by Eric Hou

Seven years ago, the Lexington school system began its grand recycling initiative. Though most LHS students still had single-syllable ages, we all remember the introduction into our lives of the friendly blue and yellow boxes. The boxes made us feel socially responsible. With every slip of paper placed in the recycling bin, we visualized a rescued redwood. Those who disobeyed recycling regulations were social outcasts; placing a plastic bottle in the blue bin was one of the few offenses actually punishable by dunce cap.

Seven years later, we have sunk to the level of C.R.U.D. - sadly enough, pun unavoidable. Can we really expect no more from ourselves than to keep trash off the ground? Do we really need to subject ourselves to questionably mandatory labor just to keep the school clean? Whatever happened to our sense of social responsibility? And, incidentally, is this really the best acronym we can think of?

Do we really need to subject ourselves to questionably mandatory labor just to keep the school clean? Whatever happened to our sense of social responsibility? And, incidentally, is this really the best acronym we can think of?

The last question is the most easily answered. "Clean Rubbish Up" is simply not a natural-sounding phrase. Also, "C.R.U.D. Day", as many refer to C.R.U.D., literally means "Clean Rubbish Up Day Day". If the event again occurs in some form next year, some effort must be made to enact a name change. My personal favorite of the many possibilities is "Clean Up Trash Day", or "C.U.T. Day".

Annoying acronyms aside, when did our descent from the recycling ideal begin? Middle school, of course, when awkwardness replaced social righteousness. Recycling propaganda rapidly died off after its initial surge. Instead of being told recycling would save the Earth, we were presented with the image of janitors throwing the contents of trash barrels and recycling bins into the same dumpster. Most are aware that we learned very little in middle school, but it even seems we forgot what we had previously known.

Most opposition to C.R.U.D. is based on its mandatory nature. Should a school be allowed to force its students to perform non-academic work? The question is a murky one, but in this case, the school's actions are justified. A cleaner school is a deserving cause, and forty-five minutes of bending and grabbing trash is not so horrible an ordeal. No reasonable number of janitors could be expected to do this amount of work - we have created it, and it is our responsibility. Thus, in this case, the ends justify the somewhat questionable means.

The final goal, of course, is to eliminate the need for C.R.U.D. But how? Perhaps, as was suggested in these pages last year, all we really need are bright yellow trash barrels. Perhaps we need a system of "grass monitors" equipped with Tasers and pea shooters to keep us from littering. Or maybe, just maybe, we should all make a commitment to - and I know this may sound impossible - throw away our own garbage. For years now, the LHS student body has been rightfully insulted and patronized by the administration on the subject of trash. Only we can end our humiliation. I usually try not to sound wishy-washy and hackneyed, but let's face it: we should be treating every day as if it were C.U.T. Day.

- Ken Weinstein

Build consensus, then go renovate

There is precious little debate over the physical condition of Lexington High School among its users. Administrators, teachers, staff, and students unanimously deplore the physical condition of our high school. As one of the pre-eminent high schools in the region, in a community noted for its dedication to educational excellence, the lack of dedication shown to maintaining and upgrading our facility as a state-of-the-art institution is ironic. That our school's accreditation could be in jeopardy due to the sorry state of our facility, a possibility not denied by superintendent Jeffrey Young, is appalling;
that our class sizes could swell to unmanageable levels is inappropriate for a community of our means; that our science labs, at the same time as being woefully outdated, pose safety hazards to their users is totally unacceptable.

Despite the widely acknowledged deterioration of our physical plant, the voters of our community have failed to reach a consensus on the priorities for improvement and the funding of the same. The issue has become a political football providing ample opportunity for local officials to point the blame at others. Meanwhile, the voters of the community do not understand the real needs or their importance to the future of our school. The opportunity to build consensus prior to building a building has escaped our leaders.

The decision to spend millions of tax dollars on any item. . . can only be made with confidence when an entire community understands the need and believes in the solution. It is no wonder that. . . the process has failed, since the real clients for the process - the students - have been largely ignored.

Consider the opportunity that presents itself when consensus building, rather than discord and political debate, is the priority of those controlling the process. If school officials and architects initiated the process by conducting school-wide meetings with our facility's most frequent users - the students - perhaps the schools most pressing needs would have become more obvious. If the students themselves had been engaged in the very difficult task of cataloging and prioritizing the needs, the foundation of consensus might have been laid. If the students, staff, and administration had then wrestled with the same issues and published the findings of their discussions the framework of consensus might have been erected. If the unified schools statement of needs had then been shared with local officials, parents, and the community at large, the construction of consensus would have neared completion.

By not engaging the users of the facility in the process, voters have only outside architects and politically motivated officials to validate (or not) the needs and priorities. By not focusing on the process of building consensus with the students, those managing the process missed an enormous opportunity to build consensus with students' parents, the very same people who are responsible for approving the project and its funding.

The decision to spend millions of tax dollars on any item is a challenging one at best. Such a decision can only be made with confidence when an entire community understands the need and believes in the solution. It is no wonder that, to date, the process has failed, since the real clients for the process - the students - have been largely ignored. There clearly will be no building without first building consensus.

- Evan Harris

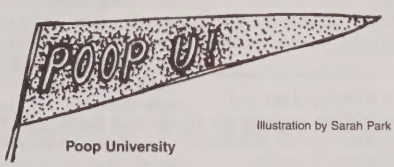


Illustration by Sarah Park

Poop University

I am going to Poop.
I cannot wait.
I must go this very second.

I bought the sweatshirts,
The hats, and the pencils
All with logos saying, "Poop is for You!"

Who cares what people say about
Wearing tee-shirts that say "P.U."
They did not get into Poop.

Poop is ranked #1 in my field.
Their reputation alone will get
Me a job.

Just so everybody will know:
I bought my parents the bumper sticker
"My son and all my money went to Poop."

I have heard Poop is hard;
But I have worked hard to get
Into Poop.

I love Poop.

- Paul Jensen

Letters to the Editor

MUSKET PHOTOGRAPH SELECTION POLICY NEEDS CLARIFICATION

The March 20 *Musket* carried a letter criticizing the absence of photos of 9th and 10th graders. The editors' reply seemed to make two points: that underclassmen are generally less newsworthy, and that newspaper photos "cover events, not individuals." Yet in the same issue, a front page story about 10th grade state testing was illustrated by a photo of a senior "doing his impersonation of a . . . sophomore." To be fair, the other front page photo illustrated an article about senior projects by showing some freshmen supposedly "discuss[ing] their future senior English project." Given the editorial purposes you've articulated, how exactly do you choose these photographs?

Kevin Kelly
Department of Mathematics

WHAT IS THE SUBVERSIVE LIST?

I am a graduate of Lexington High and I came across a recent issue of the *Musket*. I understand that the April 1st issue of your high school newspaper was intended to be a bit of a prank, but I do have a couple of concerns about this so-called "Subversive List" that was posted. I usually laugh at the things that are overblown and controversial in our affluent town, but I couldn't help but to be a little pissed off when I see a list of random things which seem to be taken like a joke, only to see my younger brother's name with this.

I guess the reason for my response is confusion more than anything else. I would hate to think that this list ended up becoming a list of names and things to trash, because I would lose the little respect I still have for this school system. I would appreciate a quick response explaining exactly what was INTENDED by this "97-98 Subversive List". If this is just a list of revolutionary topics and people, that's fine....but it was not explained and I know many people have gotten the wrong idea about this list. Again, I would appreciate a quick response about this issue, preferably from the people who compiled this fun list. Thank you.

Doug Orifice
Class of 1995

Pupils glow at Science Fairs

By Rachel Rutishauser

Really, how accurate is your weatherman? Are you sure that you are using the best antacid? Does your handwriting reveal your hidden emotions? What are the chances of you passing your A-block math test after pulling an all-nighter? The answers to these, and many other commonly asked questions (such as, how does *Bacillus megaterium* bioremediate Methanol-Polluted Water), were displayed in the nearly 140 projects presented at the 1998 Lexington High School science fair.

The projects represent months of hard work put in by students. Yet with this hard work came the times of bliss. Reminiscing about her lab experience, junior Ami Karkar remarked, "I will never forget those days with 'the posse' in Mr. Grant's room. It was a time when great minds came together and bonded."

Aside from the inconvenience of having to stand by the projects for four long hours waiting for judges, the actual fair passed without anything extraordinary happening. At the ceremony the following Friday, more than $40,000 in awards was distributed to students who received special recognition from judges. Sponsors included local businesses and establishments. Among the awards were four $5,000 scholarships from Boston University, awarded to junior Chris Lucas, sophomore Brian Hemond, junior Ken Weinstein, and junior Rachel Rutishauser. Additionally, several checks were awarded to students from scientific corporations in the area.

"[N]o LHS honorary pen can come close to representing the satisfaction I felt staying after school every day until 7 PM to finish my project."

-Junior Ami Karkar

While many students enjoyed their cash awards, others also appreciated the variety in the gifts they received. Upon receiving his very own version of "EnergyQuest!" Junior Aaron McCloskey exclaimed, "I can't wait to get home and play this game!"

However, some participants felt their rewards did not reflect the amount of work they put into their projects. Expressing slight discontent, Karkar claimed that "no LHS honorary pen can come close to representing the satisfaction I felt staying after school every day until 7 PM to finish my project."

Of the 139 students who participated, 31 were chosen to participate at the Regional Science Fair in Somerville on March 28. Those who advanced were the first, second and third place winners in their individual categories.

Unfortunately, the judges at the regional level seemed much less qualified than those from LHS. When a judge is questioning your ability to measure the margins on the printed pages of your data sheets, you know something is terribly wrong. Possibly as a result of poor judging, many of the top finishers from the LHS fair did not even place within the top 40 (out of nearly 200) at the regional fair. However, the students who did place within this cutoff have advanced to the next level of competition, the Massachusetts State Science Fair.

Those advancing to the State Science Fair were: freshmen Vanessa Carr and Jackie Ou; sophomores Stephanie Carter, Amal Dorai, Brian Hemond; juniors David Fouche, Marius Hauser, Victor Lelyveld, Naomi Levine, Jessica Liu, Brian Marcovici, Rachel Rutishauser, Albert Shieh, and Ken Weinstein; and seniors Tovah Day and David Rosner.

The state competition was held at MIT on May 1 and 2. Lexington students once again did spectacularly, capturing fourteen awards. Liu won an honorable mention, and Hauser, Rutishauser, Lelyveld, and Day took third-place awards. Weinstein, Fouche, Hemond, Carter, Shieh, and Dorai won second-place prizes. And Levine, Ou, and Rosner took home first-place awards. Prizes included hundreds of dollars in awards, computer software, a "mega-calculator" for Rosner, and a trip to Kenya or Australia for Levine.

Photo by Dan Myung

TALKING TRASH - Spreadng it or cleaning it up, senior Dan Neumann always has something to trash and smile about.

Debate team savors wins, nurses losses

By Bharat Ramamurti

The Lexington Debate team continued to recieve a mix of good news and bad news. The latest example came from the Tournament of Champions, the Super Bowl of policy debate, held in scenic Lexington, Kentucky. Seventy of the best policy debate teams and eighty of the best Lincoln-Douglas debaters in the country competed.

The good news was that four teams from LHS qualified to participate, more than from any other school in the nation. The bad news was that for the first time in eight years none of the LHS teams made it to the elimination rounds. The senior team of Kurt Kastorf and Eun Young Choi and the senior-junior team of Dan Neumann and Josh Lynn both accumulated a 4-3 record, just one win short of qualifying for the elimination rounds.

A frustrated Kastorf remarked, "It was really a letdown. After a successful regular season, it was really disappointing to come up short at the Tournament of Champions." Seniors Ranjan Roy and Ayon Roy and juniors Spencer Hutchins and Yoni Cohen achieved 3-4 records, an admirable effort considering the tough competition.

In Lincoln-Douglas competition, senior Chetan Hertzig posted a 4-3 record, suffering a heart-breaking loss in the seventh round that prevented him from reaching the elimination rounds. The post-season will continue as Bryan Marcovici, Jim Purvis, Jeanie Gorlovsky, and Hertzig will attend the Catholic National Tournament in Baltimore. The last event of the year will be the National Forensic League National Tournament, held in St. Louis.

Qualification for Nationals requires placing in the top two in the region, which Kate Vogel did for the second succeeding year in the domestic extemporaneous speaking division. Katherine Fisher will also participate in Lincoln-Douglas division. In policy, seniors Roy and Roy hope to improve upon Lexington's second place finish in 1997.

"It was really a letdown [to not reach the elimination rounds]. After a successful regular season, it was really disappointing to come up short at the Tournament of Champions."

-Senior Kurt Kastorf

The regular season provided the usual Lexington success. Policy debaters Allen Riddell and Bharat Ramamurti won Lexington's 19th straight state championship, a streak dating back to when Carter was in office and disco was king. At regional tournaments in New York and New Jersey, debaters regularly reached high elimination rounds, including championships at the Newark, Newburgh, and Monticello tournaments.

The speech and debate program achieved similar success. Steve Hayden struck fear in the hearts of his opponents, as only a tragic computer error could keep him from winning a high speaker award at Harvard University. JVers Molly Hutton, Livia Istrate, and Orly Menzin also dominated their competition.

Lexington continued to live up to its national reputation as debaters attained acclaim at the national level. Policy debaters and Lincoln-Douglas debaters alike reached elimination rounds at multiple tournaments, such as the Emory University Tournament in Georgia, and the Glenbrooks in Illinois. In fact, junior Kate Vogel reached elimination rounds at all the national tournaments she attended.

Photo by Caroline Loomis

PICKING UP THE PIECES - Senior Class Council member Erik Wang is too busy with his crud to be concerned with sophomoric problems such as finances.

First Spring Fling fails due to lack of publicity

SPRING *continued from page 1*

observation. In addition, Sherman notes that the Class Council did not have to raise Sophomore Cruise ticket prices to compensate for lost funds: "The reason that ticket prices for the Cruise are higher this year is that we engaged a more expensive cruise line. The losses for the Spring Fling had nothing to do with it."

Class Council members of other grades also believe that the loss of funds was not that significant. Junior Vice President Ami Karkar said, "The sophomores will probably make the same amount of money for their Junior Prom that any other class made. They'll just have to work harder to do it."

Senior Class Council President Rasheed Townes also expressed support for the sophomores. "The Class of '98 was in a similar situation last year. . . But we worked hard and redeemed ourselves. Sometimes the success of non-traditional school dances such as the Spring Fling depend on luck. The sophomores are young. They didn't know that the MICA festival [orchestra/band concert] was being held that night and they had already moved the date of the event once. It's difficult to criticize them."

Illustration by Carl Tortola

However, Townes does feel that the loss of funds will affect elections. "I've talked to some people and. . . they're concerned about the [election] situation," said Townes. Junior Heidi Manschreck, Senate Secretary, does not share Townes' views: "Students generally don't make the connection between the event and the individual. Class Council elections really are about popularity," said Manschreck.

Grimy gab: Softball starts slowly

By Tim Grimes

The LHS softball team is supposed to be good this year. It was ranked number 12 in the *Boston Globe*'s preseason poll. With a load of returning players, they should have the experience necessary to compete for the Middlesex League crown.

The Minutemaids certainly have the tools. Senior Kara McManus is the ace, and let me say, she is one fine pitcher. Kara seems to tuck her arms deep into her stomach, cock back, swing her right arm around a couple of times and then release the ball with a viciously quick flip. I mean, she zings the ball.

All this took me slightly aback at first, because the softball flies all over the small field. It requires a quick bat, which Lexington seems to have plenty of, too. They're led by their number three and four hitters, senior catcher Andrea Pawliczek and senior infielder Sarah Dailey, who might be the most feared hitters in the league.

And the whole lineup is dangerous. It starts with speedy outfielder Kristin Hopwood, who ignites the offense. First baseman Amy Androuais is only a sophomore, and has the potential to have an absolutely lethal bat. Senior Brooke Coffman and junior Becky Ticotsky are both excellent infielders who bring a dangerous bat to the plate. Senior outfielders Kerry Needham and Stella Rabinowitz are steady and composed both at the plate and on the field.

The bench is strong, too, with senior Becky Busa and sophomore Kate Walsh in the outfield and juniors Leah McDonald and Leah Kraemer providing capable bats, as well.

So, with that outrageous boasting over with, I can say that the opening game, Lexington hosting Wakefield, gave me quite a headache. The home team started out well; the pitching was wicked, the fielding sharp, the batting and base running strong, but then all hell broke loose. Showing signs of opening day jitters and early season sloppiness, Lexington made various fielding errors and lost the pop and its bats. Wakefield claimed a lead despite never really smacking the ball.

Senior Kara McManus is the ace, and let me say, she is one fine pitcher. Kara seems to tuck her arms deep into her stomach, cock back, swing her right arm around a couple of times and then release the ball with a viciously quick flip. I mean, she zings the ball.

It did end soon after with Lexington coming in second, 6-4, despite displaying much more talent than Wakefield. Two days later, Lexington traveled to Winchester and despite improved defensive play, fell 4-3.

I have not witnessed a softball game since that last epic game a few weeks ago, but my wild and varying sources have told me that the team hit quite a rut. Y' see, the team lost the first four games; I don't think they were supposed to lose that many all season.

They did, however, win three in a row after that. Supposedly the fielding improved but the hitting went into a major slump, and it helps to hit, y' know? So, anyway, the softball team goes on, hoping to bring their talents together enough to actually be a team worthy of such a high preseason ranking.

Well, the season is young and the Maids are too experienced to let a couple of defeats make them melancholy. Lexington boasts one fine team, so if you ever are down, mosey over to that nebulous dirt diamond, take a load off, and watch the girls of spring dazzle you.

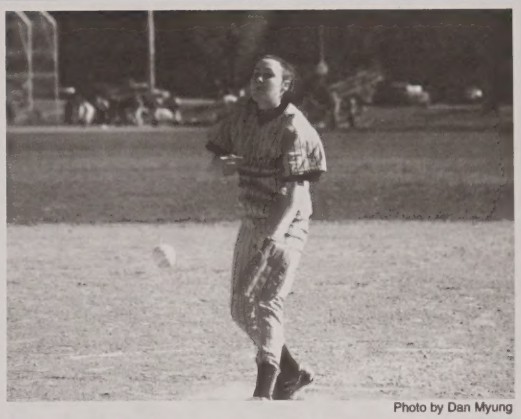


Photo by Dan Myung

SILVER BULLET - Senior Kara McManus tosses her pitch with the force of a Magnum.

Girls' LAX rises to top

By Becky Ticotsky

Through eight games, the Lexington High School girls lacrosse team was at the level of the best teams in the state. The Minutemaids (6-2) started the season against defending state champion Needham and lost by only two goals in an extremely competitive game. Lexingtons other defeat was at the hands of highly regarded Lincoln-Sudbury 10-9.

"[Karkar] is one of the best goalies in the league or even the state."

-Senior Allison Stebe

Neither L-S, whose only loss of last year in the regular seasonwas vs. Lexington, nor Needham are in Lexingtons North League; Coach Ellen Verachose to play tough non-league games in order for her team to improve. The strategy seemed to be working as Lexington was undefeated in its first six league contests, including league favorite Winchester.

Senior co-captains Alice Lin, a defender, and Christina Orf, an attack player, lead the team and contribute to its strong work ethic, according to senior Allison Stebe, one of the Maids top scorers.

"We have good camaraderie," Stebe said. "We get along really well and we work really hard. We all basically have the same goals."

One of those aspirations is to win the league. With players like seniors Leah Theriault and Mariam Levy on defense, senior Theresa Green and junior Amy Gillis at attack, and sophomore center Miriam Godfrey also contributing to Lexingtons drive, that ambition seems well within reach. Another strength of the team is that the players are versatile and can fill in at nearly any position if someone gets hurt. One Minutemaid who is irreplaceable, however, is junior goal keeper Ami Karkar.

"Shes one of the best goalies in the league or even the state,"said Stebe.

1998 Patriot's Day Roadrace Results

Finish	Name	Time
10	Nick Roetter	28:27
25	Max Woolf	30:12
31	Jerome Kirkpatrick	30:58
36	Steve Clark	31:31
52	Kevin Wolf	33:02
82	Dan Ronco	34:10
109	Emily Wanderer	35:05
Top female finisher in 13-19 division		
118	Katherine Rose	35:23
Second female finisher in 13-19 division		
193	Brian Kelley	38:32
201	Frank Sun	38:52
224	Leslie King	39:33
241	Molly Powers	40:07
242	Rena Miller-Jacobs	40:08
358	Lauren Ready	45:19
359	Laura Yasaitis	45:19
363	John Yasaitis	45:22

Also the team of Nick Roetter, Aaron Adler, Max Woolf and Jerome Kirkpatrick finished third in the team competition with a combined time of 1:58:36.

Girls' Tennis Team hits hard and fast

By Alex Sherman

After a 4-1 victory over Wakefield, the Lexington girls' varsity tennis team was blown out of the water by powerhouse Winchester, 5-0. However, the girls landed smoothly, trouncing Reading and Watertown 5-0 to improve to 3-1.

"We have a very close team in ability," said Head Coach Buzz Gillis. "We have players who can play either singles or doubles, so I think there is going to be a lot of changing around and substituting throughout the year. Our two biggest strengths have to be balance and depth."

"I want this year's team to play with a lot of excitement, a lot of intensity, and a lot of enthusiasm."

-Coach Buzz Gillis

The Minutemaids have shown that balance in their opening matches, using a plethora of different line-ups to try out new looks and find a certain chemistry that Coach Gillis wants. Lexington beat up on the Warriors in their opening match. Freshman star Lauren Ready won 6-1, 6-0 in her match at No. 1 singles.

At No. 2, Dina Guth would not be outmatched, powering her way to a 6-1, 6-1 victory. The No. 1 doubles duo of Leela Ramnath and Jasmeen Spidle won convincingly, 6-1, 6-0, while seniors Alicia Cabrera and Amber Moore cruised to a 6-3, 6-0 straight set victory. The only loss on the day was due to the fact that Erica Greenberg could not finish her match because of leg cramps. If she had been healthy, the score probably would have been 5-0.

Unfortunately, the Minutemaids had to play reining state champions Winchester next. In addition, to make matters worse, they would be without No. 1 singles player Lauren Ready, which meant that everyone else had to be moved up one slot. The 'Maids were overmatched and could not compete with the dominant Sachems. , Gillis is glad that his team is able to have the experience of playing Winchester.

"I like the fact that we play the reining state champs twice during the season," Gillis surmised. "It really gears you up for tournament time, where you hope you'll be able to play them again in the final."

Lexington bounced back from their loss with two "smashing" 5-0 wins over Watertown and Reading. The 3-1 Blue and Gold, however, do not have to win it all for Coach Gillis to deem the year a success.

"I want this year's team to play with a lot of excitement, a lot of intensity, and a lot of enthusiasm. If we can do this can remain competitive with the best teams in our league, anything can happen. It's wide open this year."

Boys' LAX battles top teams in state

By Spencer Nichols and Becky Ticotsky

Despite losing 14 seniors to graduation, the beginning of the Lexington High boys' lacrosse season looked promising as always. Returning superstars like All-League seniors Nick Campisi and Jeff LoPresti were optimistic about the team, and with good reason.

They are backed by a junior squad of fantastic players like Kyle Hintlian, Jay Kasparian, Dave Santo, Mike Groppi, and Greg Smith, plus one of the best goalies in the league, senior Chris Beltz.

In addition, several sophomores including Brian Kelley, "surprise newcomer" David Chapman, Adam Coffin, and Dylan McDuffee have been showing promise.

"We have a lot of guys who have a tremendous amount of potential," said Coach Dave Lautman. "I think we're going to improve an incredible amount over the year."

Lexington's first two games were disappointing losses to high-ranked Concord-Carlisle and Billerica, two of the best teams in the state. Intheir next game, Lexington had a win snatched out from under its feet by Winchester, another outstanding team.

"The first three games, we're playing the top three teams in the state," Lautman had said before the season. Lautman said the early loses were due to the team$s inability to execute plays, something they will work on for the rest of the season.

The Minutemen turned it around in their fourth game with a blowout victory (13-2) over Medford.

After eight games, the Minutemen stood at a respectable 4-4, led by leading scorer Kelley (18 goals in first six games,) Kasparian, who scored the winning goal with 0:42 left vs. Weymouth, Eric Wang, Campisi, and senior defensive stars Steve Nawoichik and Matt Turcotte.

Lexington's .500 record is even more impressive considering that the competition in the Metro North Division makes winning a tough battle every game. Nevertheless, Lautman feels the Minutemen are up to the challenge.

"There's nobody on the schedule we can't beat," he said.

Girls' Track undefeated

By Carolyn Shank

The Minutemaids are still going strong. With only two dual meets remaining in the season, the Lexington girls are the sole possessors of an undefeated record in the Middlesex League. The girls' most recent victims were the teams from Stoneham, Melrose, and Belmont. The Maids have defeated each of the teams soundly, as they continue their excellent season. A second 1998 league championship banner will be hanging in the field house if the rest of the season goes as planned.

Unfortunately, the Minutemen have been struggling to rack up the wins. Currently, the Men hold a 3-4 record, with a very tough meet ahead. On May 4th, the Men will face Woburn, the team that snapped Reading's incredible streak of 239 outdoor track victories on the controversial call of taunting, a call that is still being debated by Middlesex League coaches. Following the Woburn meet, only the meet versus Burlington remains, as the dual meet portion of the season comes to a close.

Both teams are looking for strong performances in the bigger meets at the close of the season. The Minutemaids have definite All-State medal contenders in Grace Licorish, Ebony Jack, Carolyn Shank, Kate Waller, Leslie King, and all of the relays. The Men should see Mike McCormack performing well in the large meets, along with captain Phil Green, who has dominated the 300 hurdles in the Middlesex League this year. The end of this outdoor track season should be interesting, as the the Minutemaids' incredible year comes to a close.

The Minutemaids have definite All-State medal contenders in Grace Licorish, Ebony Jack, Carolyn Shank, Kate Waller, Leslie King, and all of the relays.

On Thursday, April 16th, the Maids faced the Reading Raiders, a team which was their biggest obstacle of the season. The Raiders finished second to the Minutemaids in indoor, and were the 1997 outdoor league champions. Lexington had a superb day at the meet, proving dominant in nearly every event.

Placing first in various events were Shank in the 300 hurdles (47.4) and the 100 hurdles (16.9), and King in the mile, who ran a phenomenal time of 5:25, beating one of the league's best runners, Reading's Ellen Cantillon.

Also placing first were Caitlin Wolf and Waller, tying for first in the high jump (4-8), Licorish in the long jump (16-7 1/4) and the 200 meters, Kathy Yang in the discus (101-2), Jack in the 100 meters, Katie Walker in the 800 meters, and the 4 by 100 meter relay team consisting of Kathy Yang, Licorish, Amelia Woessner, and Jack. The meet was won by Lexington even before the two relays. The meet ended with a score of 76 for Lexington and 60 for Reading.

Green has been a strong member of the boys' team, recording many victories in the 300 hurdles, including first-place finishes against Winchester (42.4), Watertown (41.9), and Reading. He has also performed well in the 100 hurdles, placing first against Winchester and Watertown, and placing second to Reading's Mark Jellison, who was the second-place finisher at the 1998 indoor New Englands.

Junior Mike McCormack has also run excellently, including a stunning victory over Reading's Jellison in the 400 meters. McCormack recorded a fantastic time of 51.3.

Photo by Dan Myung

ALL JACKED UP - Junior Ebony Jack unleashes a surge of energy to triple jump herself across the sand.

Baseball surprises with strong start

By Nick Roetter

Before the season, the Woburn Advocate predicted this year's Lexington High baseball team as the fourth strongest team in the Middlesex League.

However, if early performance is any indication of how a team will finish, Woburn's newspaper is way off the mark.

The Minutemen stood atop the Middlesex league standings with an impressive 6-1 record and were ranked 11th in Eastern Mass. by the Boston Globe.

Right off the bat in the season opener, Lexington showed they are a team to be feared in the Middlesex League with their 7-3 win over league favorite Wakefield.

The win was achieved as a result of the masterful pitching of junior ace Mike "Balogne" McGirr, as well as extremely strong hitting and defensive stops. McGirr allowed five hits, no earned runs, and seven strikeouts in the complete game (7 innings) victory.

Defensively, classmate Chris "The Regulator" Nasson turned in many stellar defensive plays at second base, most notably a diving grab in which he threw out a Wakefield runner while on his knees. The senior outfield trio of Eric Armstrong, Ben Caram, and Eric Kelley made numerous heads-up plays.

At the plate, junior Mike Bresnihan, picked up two hits and two RBI, one of which drove in Tom "Marathon Man" Bellini to give Lexington its first run of the game.

Armstrong continued his torrid pre-season hitting into the regular season with a single, double, and a triple.

While many would say the Wakefield win was an upset, Nasson tells it how it is. "Sure, according to most people they were the favorites, but if we played our game, we knew we would win," he said.

Against Belmont on April 29, Nasson and Gordon Barnes combined to give the Minutemen a 16-4 win.

The team has a healthy balance of experienced players and newcomers who are expected to contribute. On the mound, McGirr and Nasson will be among the best pitching duos in the league, with Bresnihan and new addition Barnes also fitting into the mix.

The team has a healthy balance of experienced players and newcomers who are expected to contribute.

John Erickson is a steady third baseman, while Nick "Put it away Reggie" Talarico figures to be a force both at the plate and at first base. Speedy freshman Tim Dempsey showed he can play with the big boys by earning a spot as the DH.

The Minutemen's main in league competition will most likely will come from Melrose, Winchester, Stoneham, and Reading. But if their first seven games are any indication of what's to come, expect to open up a June issue of the *Woburn Advocate* and see the Lexington Minutemen at the top of the Middlesex League standings.

Boys' Tennis serves up big

By Alex Sherman

After four games in this young Middlesex League season, Coach George Mechem has to be happy with the performance of his boys varsity tennis squad. After the dispatching of Wakefield, 5-0, Lexington lost a heartbreaker to perennial powerhouse and pre-season favorite Winchester 3-2. However, the squad bounced right back with two 5-0 victories over Watertown and Reading, the latter coming against a squad Coach George Mechem thought of highly. Mechem is impressed with what he has seen as of now.

"To me, it looks as though we have a better team than I expected we would before the season began," Mechem said. "I'm hoping that when the dust clears at the end of the season, my prediction will be true."

The Minutemen had no trouble advancing past Wakefield and Watertown. The singles trio of Andres Reyes, Nick Nagao, and Wayne Chuang cruised to easy wins, while the No. 1 doubles team of Josh Leopold and Mike Sciarretta and No. 2 twosome of Kevin Chen and De Hsieh had no trouble with their matches either. Both doubles teams had an obvious edge serving and volleying, which led to easy victories.

Lexington, however, ran into a determined Winchester team which edged out Lexington 3-2. Both doubles squads for Lexington turned in victories, but all three Winchester singles beat out their Lexington counterparts for the win.

"I hope that we can turn the loss into a positive," Mechem commented. "If we can make sure that this is our only loss, and that we can beat them again the next time, then we'll have gained something from this loss.

Against Reading, Lexington switched up their line-up a bit, but still got positive results. Reyes and Nagao were victorious in straight sets, while Chuang won 6-4, 6-4 at the third spot. At first doubles, Hsieh and Chen turned in a solid straight set win, both moving up from second doubles, while a semi-injured Sciarretta and John Amar, who was brought up from junior varsity, won 6-1, 6-0 at No. 2 doubles. Amar substituted in for an injured Josh Leopold.

The 3-1 Minutemen know that they cannot get ahead of themselves just yet, but Coach Mechem has already speculated about what Lexington's goal for the season is.

"We'd love to play Winchester again, only with the league title on the line," said Mechem. "It's now our job to make sure we put ourselves in that position before that second match."

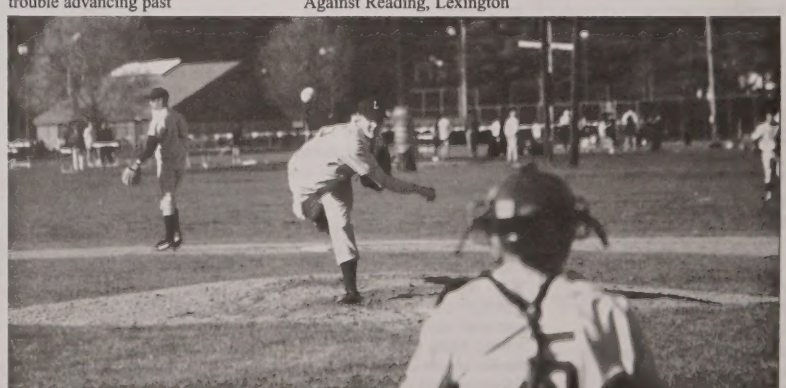


Photo by Dan Myung

ROCKET REBORN - Junior pitcher Mike McGirr hurls his amazing fastball to home plate.